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For Immediate Release...

Corrections News

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Waste Control Coalition Honors Department of Corrections with Environmental Award

Citing environmental progress, the Missouri Waste Control Coalition this afternoon presented the Missouri Department of Corrections (DOC) and two other partners with the "Outstanding Achievement in Government Award". The award was presented to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the University of Missouri-Columbia and the DOC at the coalition's annual conference at the Lake of the Ozarks. The award highlights a partnership between the three entities.

"This award illustrates the importance my administration places on partnerships to help ensure a cleaner and healthier environment for future generations," Gov. Matt Blunt said.

Since 1995, 4,797,064 tires have been processed at the Missouri Vocational Enterprises (MVE) tire recycling plant at the Central Missouri Correctional Center (CMCC) in Jefferson City. Under an agreement between Corrections and DNR, prisoners are sent to clean up dump sites. During the past 13 years, prisoners have cleaned up 286 sites. Those sites vary from 500 tires to a site in Laclede County, which had 813,000 tires in 1998. The tires are taken by truck to CMCC, where they are put through a grinding machine. Chips from the tires then go up a conveyer belt and ultimately to a truck. The material is then transported by tractor trailer to the University of Missouri-Columbia. MU mixes tire-derived fuel (TDF) with coal and burns the mixture to generate electricity for the campus.

"This award demonstrates our commitment to the environment as well as public safety," Corrections Director Larry Crawford said. "This is hard work, but it's beneficial to the state when these tire dumps are cleaned up. It also teaches our offenders important job skills, which is important in reducing recidivism."

The building at CMCC contains a primary and secondary shredder, conveyer belts, a truck and a crossbelt magnet, which removes loose wires from shredded tires on the conveyer belt. The equipment was paid for with a DNR grant worth \$850,000. Nine full-time civilian employees are involved in the program, along with about 45 offender workers. Like all work release prisoners, the offenders are near the end of their sentence and are carefully screened.

The Missouri Waste Control Coalition this afternoon presented the Missouri Department of Corrections and two other partners with the "Outstanding Achievement in Government Award".

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